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JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER
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STRICTLY PERSONAL: EXCERPTS FROM MY DIARY

April 11 -- Called upon National Security Council source for latest intelligence about Libyan crisis. He confided that President Reagan is studying contingency plans to punish Moammar Khadafy for ordering terrorists to attack U.S. citizens and facilities. One plan calls for United States to support Egyptian assault upon Libya. Egypt's wily but wary leader, Hosni Mubarak, has been sounded out, source said. Mubarak would like to smash Khadafy but fears backlash from militant Arabs inside Egypt. He has politely declined involvement in any U.S.-sponsored operation at this delicate time. Most likely alternative, source said, would be air strike by U.S. carrier planes at few carefully selected Libyan targets.

Source noted that Khadafy, for all his bravado, practices selective prudence. Apparently he's not so reckless that he wants to goad Uncle Sam too far; for one of the world's puniest powers to provoke a superpower has its hazards. So he has been knocking at diplomatic backdoors, anxiously seeking reconciliation with Washington. Has approached Algerians, Moroccans and Saudis, asking them to intervene. But this is familiar Khadafy tactic: try to appear reasonable and mollify victim after each new outrage.